Basic Cloud Types

Summary

The students will observe and identify the three basic cloud types (i.e., cumulus, stratus, cirrus)

Time Frame

5 class periods of 30 minutes each

Materials

Cameras, computers, books, magazines, encyclopedias

Student Prior Knowledge

The students will be aware that there are various types of clouds and that each type of cloud usually determines the kind of weather we experience.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Make predictions based on observations and current knowledge.

Instructional Procedures

Step 1: The teacher will explain, define, and show the three basic cloud types. Step 2: The teacher will discuss the weather associated with each cloud type. Step 3: The students will create a picture representing the three cloud formations utilizing cotton balls at the elevations which they form. Students will label and briefly describe the weather for each representation. Step 4: The class will go on a walkabout to take pictures of the various cloud formations. This activity will occur over the course of several days. Students will take notebooks and journal what they observe. Step 5: Students will research the cloud combinations on the internet . Step 6: The students will classify the cloud pictures after transfering them to the computer. The students will print off their photos and will collectively create a chart combining all of the pictures according to the cloud category they fall under. Step 7: The class will share their project with a second grade class.

Extensions

After studying the basic cloud types students may work in small groups researching on internet and other mediums about hurricanes, tornadoes,etc. Student will generate a report of their findings. The report can be a PowerPoint, written report, oral presentation, etc.

Rubrics

Science Lab Report Rubric

Bibliography

Jordan School District TRB USA Today Weather

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